

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 18 – 23 without prejudice.

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1 10. (Currently Amended) A In a processing device, a product for a team auction
2 system comprising:

3 an online auction system servicing at least one seller and at least
4 one bidder, comprising:

5 a) an interface module configured to provide a
6 user interface between the seller and the bidder;

7 b) a transaction module operatively coupled for
8 communication to said interface module configured to perform transactions
9 associated with moves made by the seller and the bidder in conjunction with a
10 sale of an item by the seller; and

11 c) a mechanism module operatively coupled with
12 said interface module, to interactively drive said transaction module so as to
13 perform transactions according to at least one auction rule defined by said
14 mechanism module;

15 instructions for directing-a said processing device to:

16 partition a plurality of participants into teams,
17 wherein a team comprises team members;

18 determine, for each team, a corresponding team
19 bid for a set of goods;

20 determine a winning team based on said team-bid
21 bids; and

22 allocate-items the set of goods to said team
23 members of said winning team; and

24 a media readable by said processing device that stores said
25 instructions.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said instruction for determining a team bid comprises aggregating bids of
3 the team members.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said instruction for allocating-items the set of goods is based on
3 aggregated bids of teams.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said instruction for determining a winning team is performed during a
3 clearing phase.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said instruction for allocating-items the set of goods to said team
3 members of said winning team further comprises determining said allocation
4 based on bids made by each said team member.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein a participant chooses a team at the beginning of the team auction.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said instructions for directing a processing device further comprise:
3 selecting a quantity of teams to proceed to at least one additional
4 round.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The product for a team auction system of claim 16
2 wherein said instructions for directing a processing device further comprise:
3 allocating a prize to a team that wins said at least one additional
4 round.

1 18. (Canceled)

1 19. (Canceled)

1 20. (Canceled)

1 21. (Canceled)

1 22. (Canceled)

1 23. (Canceled)

1 24. (Currently Amended) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said ~~instructions~~ instruction for directing a processing device partitioning
3 a plurality of participants into teams further ~~comprise~~ comprises:

4 partitioning assigning a team to at least one participant based on
5 an interest of said at least one participant.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said ~~instructions~~ instruction for directing a processing device partitioning
3 a plurality of participants into teams further ~~comprise~~ comprises:

4 partitioning assigning a team to at least one participant based on
5 a predetermined process for ~~partitioning~~ assigning teams to said at least one
6 participant.

1 26. (Currently Amended) The product for a team auction system of claim 10
2 wherein said instructions for directing a processing device further comprise:

3 summing each bid of said team members of said each team;
4 averaging said sum of each bid of said team members of said
5 each team; and
6 determining said each team bid based on said average of said
7 sum of each bid of said team members of said each team.

1 27 – 61. (Canceled)

1 62. (Currently Amended) A In a processing device, a product for a tournament
2 auction system comprising:

3 an online auction system servicing at least one seller and at least
4 one bidder, comprising:

5 a) an interface module configured to provide a
6 user interface between the seller and the bidder;

7 b) a transaction module operatively coupled for
8 communication to said interface module configured to perform transactions
9 associated with moves made by the seller and the bidder in conjunction with a
10 sale of an item by the seller; and

11 c) a mechanism module operatively coupled with
12 said interface module, to interactively drive said transaction module so as to
13 perform transactions according to at least one auction rule defined by said
14 mechanism module;

15 instructions for directing a said processing device to:

16 receive a plurality of items for sale by a seller;
17 auction said items sequentially in a series of
18 rounds of bidding, ~~a set~~ subset ~~of auctioned the items for being up for auction at~~
19 each round of bidding;

20 ~~receive bids for said set~~ each subset of auctioned
21 items from a plurality of bidders during each round;

22 ~~allocate each set~~ subset of auctioned items to at
23 least one of said plurality of bidders at a predetermined round; and

24 ~~admit to each subsequent rounds~~ round of bidding
25 a subset of bidders from the previous round according to the bid value placed by
26 each bidder during the previous round; and

27 a media readable by said processing device that stores said
28 instructions.

1 63. (Currently Amended) The product for a tournament auction system of claim
2 62 wherein ~~said a~~ bidder pays ~~said his~~ bid responsive to being prioritized over
3 other bidders in ~~said a~~ last round.

1 64. (Currently Amended) The product for a tournament auction system of claim
2 62 wherein each set of items is allocated immediately after the round in which
3 ~~each~~ such set of items ~~are~~ is auctioned.

1 65. (Previously Presented) A product for a tournament auction system
2 comprising:

3 instructions for directing a processing device to:

4 receive an item for sale by a seller;

5 auction said item sequentially in a series of rounds

6 of bidding;

7 receive bids for said auctioned item from a

8 plurality of bidders during each of said series of rounds;

9 admit to each of a subsequent round of bidding a

10 subset of bidders from a previous round responsive to a bid value placed by each

11 of said plurality of bidders, wherein said subset of bidders are assessed a payment

12 in response to being admitted in each subsequent round; and

13 a media readable by said processing device that stores said
14 instructions.